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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 1 FEB 50

SUBJECT The Konstruktions-und Ingenieurbüro, Leuna  
 25X1A

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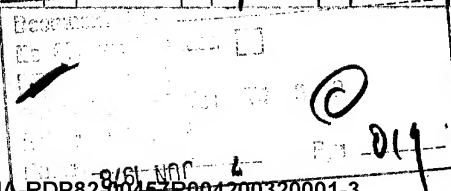
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1. The Konstruktions-und Ingenieurbüro (KIB), Leuna, is the largest engineering office in the Eastern Zone and designs chemical plants for the SMA and the DMK. It came into being on 1 November 1945 as a result of the liquidation of the Leuna branch of the firm Friedrich Uhde KG, from which both staff and archives were taken over. The operation was carried out by Col. Willessov, at that time Soviet director of Chemiewerk, Leuna. The technical direction was entrusted to Dr. Elbel, and commercial direction to Wilhelm Studders, a bank director. Because of personal feuds between Elbel and Studders, Herr Studders was forced to leave the firm on 20 July 1946. The firm Friedrich Uhde, which had meanwhile been revived on 1 July 1946 by Dr. Blauhut in co-operation with Uhde of Dortmund, took on Herr Studders and employed him in a consultative capacity until 31 January 1949. He was responsible for opening connections with Yugoslavia through the Yugoslav Legation in Berlin.
2. In Studders' place as commercial director of KIB, an SED man, Ing. Werner Ulbrich, was appointed. At the beginning of 1948, in collaboration with the Land government in Halle, he transferred KIB to the VEB, Gruppe Kohlewertstoffe. In March 1948, however, Herr Ulbrich was shot in his car. Meanwhile, to escape from Soviet service, Dr. Elbel left the firm at the end of 1947, returned to Chemiewerk, Leuna, and in the summer of 1948 left for Western Germany. On his departure, Dipl. Ing. Heinz Fischer took over the technical direction of the office. As his assistant, Dr. Blauhut, director of the Uhde firm, was engaged in a part-time capacity at the KIB. After Ulbrich's death, Fischer took over complete direction of the firm, both technical and commercial.
3. At the Leipzig spring fair in 1949, Fischer and Bertsch of the DMK, Berlin, discussed the combination of the Uhde firm and the KIB. Shortly afterwards, the Uhde bureau was liquidated and was annexed by the VEB, Gruppe Alcid. KIB was then divorced from the VEB Gruppe Kohlewertstoffe and also annexed to Gruppe Alcid. Finally the amalgamation of Uhde and KIB under the present name of VEB Konstruktions-und Ingenieurbüro, Leuna, Merseburg, took place. As a result of this measure, changes were made in the management which is now composed as follows:

a. Managing Director  
 Deputy

Dipl. Ing. Fischer  
 Dr. Blauhut

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- b. Technical Directors      Dr. Blauhut  
Dipl. Ing. Böslar
  - c. Commercial Director      Knauf
  - d. Staff Manager            Ing. Kastner
4. From 1 November 1945 to March 1948, the office was located in the administrative buildings of Chemiewerk, Leuna. In April 1948, buildings were taken over outside the works in the Spergauerstrasse where the various offices are now situated. The staff of the former Uhde firm is still accommodated in its old quarters in 37 Sattlerstrasse.
  5. An engineering section of about 15 men is at the Ingenieurzentrale in Böhlen. This section was engaged from mid-1948 to mid-1949 on the documentation of the Iso-octane plant (AT-Anlage) in operation at Böhlen.
  6. Assembly teams from KIB are also at work under the direction of Ing. Seyfried at Chemiewerk, Leuna, Benzinwerk Böhlen, and Brabag Zeitz. They comprise a total of some 200 fitters and assistants.
  7. In 1946 and 1947, the staff of the office amounted to between 200 and 250 technical employees and 25-30 commercial employees. From 1948 to July 1949, the figure varied between 150-160 technical employees and 20-25 commercial employees. Today the figures are 200-220 and 40-50 respectively.
  8. Completed and current orders consist of the following\*:
    - a. A lactam plant: Between November 1945 and October 1946 a complete lactam plant with a capacity of 330 tons per month was designed for the Soviets. The plant is required in the preparatory process for perlon silk. The work was carried out under the direction of Dipl. Ing. Löttsch and Major Lifschütz, a Russian. After its completion, Löttsch was taken to the USSR on 15 October 1946 with a team of 14 engineers. According to the few letters received from them, they have been responsible for the erection of a lactam plant. They had hoped to return at the end of 1948 but were given new duties.
    - b. A heavy water plant\*\*: It is reported that 50 qualified engineers were removed from Chemiewerk, Leuna, at the same time as the above team. Some of them had worked on a heavy water plant which had been designed and built under the direction of Dr. Elbel between November 1945 and October 1946.
    - c. A water gas plant with  $\text{CH}_4\text{OH}$ ; synthesis (methyl-alcohol).
    - d. A salt factory for the production of ammonium nitrate and calcium nitrate.
    - e. A polystyrol plant for the production of artificial yarn.
    - f. An ethane cracking plant (Äthan-Spalt-Anlage) with Linde low temperature distillation for the production of lubricating oil. The lubricating oil plant itself was designed by Uhde.
    - g. A butadiene plant with 10 contact furnaces, an Aldol plant with 4 contact furnaces, and a distillation plant with 8 distilling aggregates for the production of Buna rubber.

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- h. An oil-sand distillation plant for the extraction of oil from oil-sand with a seven per cent oil content. This experimental plant was built by Polysius, Dessau. Tests were carried out under the supervision of the Soviet control office TB5 at Halle. The director of this experimental work was Dr. Laue of SAC Karjer, Kombinat Deuben. The experiment, however, proved a failure as the extracted oil caught fire in the rotary oven.
- i. A contact factory for the production of various types of contacts required in the making of petroleum and Buna. This contact factory was designed according to principles which had been worked out by Kraftstoff- und Industriebau, Berlin, in combination with the Soviet control office for the Krasnoi plant.
9. The Kraftstoff- und Industriebau is the successor of the original Mineraloelbau GmbH, Berlin, which was known during the last years of the war under the cover name of Julius Schmidt, Luckenwalde. The director of this firm is Dipl. Ing. Klink. Herr Klink was previously secretary to Dipl. Ing. Dernbach, head of the High Pressure Department of Mineraloelbau.

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~~Comment:~~ The plants described in items 8c through 8i have been designed since October 1946.

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~~Comment:~~ This supplements the information on a heavy water plant

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